

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 25, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1853

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla

February 22, 2012

An act to add Section 44255 to the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1853, as amended, Bonilla. Teacher credentialing: recognition of study in transitional kindergarten.

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards and to determine the terms for the issuance and renewal of teaching credentials, certificates, and permits, as specified.

This bill would authorize the commission to convene a workgroup consisting of specified members to develop program standards for the issuance of a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten, as defined, for holders of a multiple subject teaching credential who will be teaching pupils enrolled in transitional kindergarten, as defined, and would authorize the commission to add a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten to the multiple subject teaching credential of a teacher who meets the established standards. The bill would authorize the commission to work with the Superintendent of Public Instruction to gather and post, on an appropriate Internet Web site, best practices from school districts and schools on curriculum development and professional development relating to implementing and sustaining transitional

kindergarten programs. The bill also would provide that the holder of a multiple subject teaching credential who has received a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten is not authorized to teach English learners, except as specified, and that a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten is not considered a type of authorization, cannot be used as a condition of employment, does not replace subject matter competence requirements, and cannot be used in making employment decisions relating to reductions in employee positions.

The bill would require the commission to use private funds to support the development of the recognition of study in transitional kindergarten and would prohibit the use of General Fund moneys for this purpose. The bill would further prohibit the implementation of these provisions unless the commission certifies that it has received private funding to complete the development of the recognition of study in transitional kindergarten.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 44255 is added to the Education Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 44255. (a) For purposes of this section, the following
- 4 definitions shall apply:
- 5 (1) "Recognition of study in transitional kindergarten" is a
- 6 statement added to a multiple subject teaching credential to indicate
- 7 that the holder of a multiple subject *teaching* credential has
- 8 completed a commission-approved program in transitional
- 9 kindergarten teaching methods that can be applied to the academic
- 10 instruction authorized by his or her credential. A recognition of
- 11 study in a transitional kindergarten teacher preparation program
- 12 may be offered as part of an initial teacher preparation program
- 13 or as a separate program for teachers who possess a valid multiple
- 14 subject *teaching* credential.
- 15 (2) "Transitional kindergarten" means the first year of a two-year
- 16 kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum
- 17 that is age and developmentally appropriate, as defined in
- 18 subdivision (d) of Section 48000.
- 19 (b) The commission may convene a workgroup to develop
- 20 program standards for the issuance of a recognition of study in

1 transitional kindergarten for holders of a multiple subject teaching
2 credential who will be teaching pupils enrolled in transitional
3 kindergarten pursuant to Section 48000. The workgroup shall
4 include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

5 (1) The Superintendent or his or her representative.

6 (2) Representatives from approved teacher preparation programs,
7 including at least one representative from the California
8 Community Colleges, the California State University, the
9 University of California, and the Association of Independent
10 California Colleges and Universities. To the extent practicable,
11 the representatives described in this paragraph should have an
12 academic interest or prior experience in preparing teachers to teach
13 pupils in transitional kindergarten.

14 (3) A researcher from a higher education institution who has
15 experience in early pupil learning.

16 (4) A representative from a school district, a county office of
17 education, or a charter school that has implemented a program for
18 transitional kindergarten.

19 (5) A transitional kindergarten teacher who has experience
20 teaching pupils in kindergarten.

21 (6) A teacher who is currently teaching pupils in transitional
22 kindergarten.

23 (7) A representative of other organizations deemed appropriate
24 by the commission.

25 (8) *A parent representative.*

26 (c) The commission may add a recognition of study in
27 transitional kindergarten to the multiple subject teaching credential
28 of a teacher who meets the standards established pursuant to this
29 section.

30 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that a successful candidate
31 for a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten be able to
32 demonstrate appropriate knowledge, as determined by the
33 commission, based on the recommendations of the workgroup
34 convened pursuant to subdivision (b).

35 (e) With respect to a recognition of study in transitional
36 kindergarten, the California State University and other teacher
37 preparation institutions are encouraged to establish goals to increase
38 the number of teachers participating in transitional kindergarten
39 preparation programs.

1 (f) Beginning teacher support and assessment programs are
2 encouraged to provide appropriate support, mentoring, and
3 assistance to beginning teachers who teach pupils in transitional
4 kindergarten.

5 (g) The commission may work with the Superintendent to gather
6 and post, on an appropriate Internet Web site, best practices from
7 school districts and schools on curriculum development and
8 professional development relating to implementing and sustaining
9 transitional kindergarten programs.

10 *(h) The commission shall use private funds to support the*
11 *development of the recognition of study in transitional kindergarten*
12 *as described in this section. General Fund moneys shall not be*
13 *used for this purpose.*

14 ~~(h)~~

15 (i) The holder of a multiple subject teaching credential who has
16 received a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten pursuant
17 to subdivision (c) is not authorized to teach English learners unless
18 he or she holds an appropriate authorization or is employed on the
19 basis of a local assignment option.

20 ~~(i)~~

21 (j) A recognition of study in transitional kindergarten shall not
22 be considered a type of authorization, shall not be used as a
23 condition of employment, shall not replace a subject matter
24 competence requirement, and shall not be used in making
25 employment decisions pursuant to Section 44955.

26 *(k) This section shall not be implemented unless the commission*
27 *certifies that it has received private funding pursuant to subdivision*
28 *(h) to complete the development of the recognition of study in*
29 *transitional kindergarten.*